

CIA 1-04 Tofte, Hans
01 Helms
Pers. Morrison, Julian

A Question for Mr. Helms

Tofte's Hearing: 6 Minutes

By JULIAN MORRISON

Hans V. Tofte, the suspended CIA agent accused of taking secret Agency papers home with him, went before a special review board today and said later the meeting lasted only six minutes.

He said it was abruptly ended after he demanded to know from CIA director Richard Helms if the Agency had now stopped entering private homes in the United States "illegally, minus a warrant, and without due process of law."

He said he told the board that "before I co-operate any further — and I am here to co-operate 100 per cent, I want Mr. Helms to answer the above question in person and in public."

Earlier, Mr. Tofte revealed he had told friends that he has "meticulous diaries and private records" that can provide inside knowledge on the role played by top Agency officials in the Bay of Pigs disaster, in the Dominican Republic and in Viet Nam.

In a lengthy letter to a friend in Mason City, Iowa, his former home, Mr. Tofte also said that "the same people who planned and executed that disastrous

(Bay of Pigs) affair are still sitting in Langley in bigger and better jobs.

"I do not envy them those jobs," he wrote, "I just think that other men should be in them."

It said a young agent accidentally found them on the third floor of Mr. Tofte's former Georgetown home after he'd allegedly gone there to inspect a basement apartment that was for rent.

Mr. Tofte wrote, however, that "the papers they found in my house represent years of study aimed at perfecting a plan that would revolutionize the entire CIA and make it do the work it is supposed to do — better, more professionally and without a colossal waste in regard to money and human tragedy.

LITTLE PEOPLE

"The latter refers to the untold 'little people'—agents and their bamboozled families — that go down the drain during inefficient and callous operations without anyone lifting a finger. Like the Cuban exiles that were murdered at the Bay of Pigs."



MR. TOFTE

Referring to past criticism of the CIA by Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman J. William Fulbright, Mr. Tofte said "I am no Fulbright man. In fact, I am no politician at all.

"However," he said, "I do agree with Fulbright that the Agency has to be watched very closely, only Fulbright's ideas of 'watching' would not even begin to do the job."

Mr. Tofte also wrote that he

was present "during a secret meeting at the White House early in the Kennedy Administration" and was "jokingly asked whether I wanted to be Director of CIA."

MISTAKE

He said he replied that "the worst mistake any President of the United States could possibly make would be to put a CIA professional in the top spot of the Agency."

He said "I was vastly relieved when Kennedy appointed a type like (John A.) McCone", who succeeded Allen Dulles as CIA director.

Earlier this year, President Johnson named Richard Helms as the first CIA career man ever to head the Agency. A special review board has been set up to study Mr. Tofte's case and recommend action to him.